APPENDICES

A

(from The Natal Agricultural Journal – 25th October 1901)

SERUM TREATMENT OF RINDERPEST

Government Enquiry and Result

The committee appointed on the 24th June 1901 to consider and report on the claim of Mr H. Watkins-Pitchford F.R.C.V.S., Principal Veterinary Surgeon, to have been the discoverer – either individually or in conjunction with Mr Theiler – of the serum treatment of rinderpest, has made an interesting report to the Government. The committee consisted of Mr J. Hyslop D.S.O., C.M.G., M.B., Mr A. W. Cooper J. P., F.R.M.S., and Mr G. Leuchars M.L.A.

The report stated that Mr Watkins-Pitchford arrived in Natal at the end of May 1896 and that in September of the same year, he left for the Transvaal for the purpose of investigating rinderpest in conjunction with Mr Theiler, the Transvaal Veterinary Surgeon. Before leaving, he indicated to Mr G. M. Sutton, the Ministerial head of his department, that he intended to follow the serum method of treatment in his investigations with a view to its application to rinderpest. On the 12th December 1896 writing to his wife, Mr Pitchford said: ‘I am reporting by this post to the Government that our investigations are very promising and that we have produced a curative serum which will confer immunity.’ He also reported to the Commissioner of Agriculture on the 19th December, seven days later, that they (Messrs Pitchford and Theiler) ‘had been able to discover a process by which undoubted immunity could be conferred’. This report, with other documents relating to Messrs Pitchford and Theiler’s researches on rinderpest, were destroyed in the Maritzburg Town Hall. The first public official announcement in Natal of the results of these investigations appeared in the Gazette on the 6th April 1897, being dated 15th February of the same year.

The committee then point out that Professor Koch reached Kimberley on the 5th December 1896 and that the first report in which he referred to serum in connection with his investigations into rinderpest was dated the 31st January 1897. On the 10th February, he stated that ‘by means of a mixture of serum and virulent blood’ he was able to produce ‘an active immunity equal to that of a beast which had contracted rinderpest and recovered’. The committee, after hearing the evidence of the Hon. G. M. Sutton and Mr C. B. Lloyd, late Commissioner of Agriculture, and considering various reports, found as follows:

That Messrs Watkins-Pitchford and Theiler are justified in claiming priority in the successful application of the serum method of treatment of rinderpest.

That at the same time there is no evidence before the committee nor does the committee know of any evidence to show that Mr Watkins-Pitchford published the result of his researches prior to Professor Koch.

The committee further find that Mr Pitchford’s claim to have been – in conjunction with Mr Theiler – the originator of the application to rinderpest of the serum method of treatment is a just and reasonable one and that it is, in the opinion of the committee, of such an important nature as to merit recognition.
The committee recommend that this report be laid before Parliament and that copies be forwarded to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London.

The committee desires to record that in their opinion, the greatest credit is due to Mr H. Watkins-Pitchford for his careful and assiduous research, ably conducted, often under adverse circumstances, into the question of rinderpest.

B

(Kruger’s Reply to Botha’s birthday cable from the 1904 Congress of Het Volk – taken from Ps 323/5 of The Pace of the Ox by Marjorie Juta published by Constable & Co., London in 1937)

CLARENS
June 29th 1904

Dear General,

It is a great privilege to me to acknowledge receipt of your cablegram of the 25th May and your letter of the 29th of the same month by means of which the greetings of the congress held at Pretoria from the 23-25th May were sent to me. With all the sorrow and sadness which are my lot, these greetings brought thankfulness to me. And with all my heart, I thank you all who, having come together to deliberate about the present and the future, thought of your old State President and by that have proved that you have not forgotten the past. For those who wish to create a future may not lose sight of the past.

Therefore look into the past for all that is to be discovered there which is good and beautiful. Form your ideals accordingly and try to realise those ideals in the future.

It is true that much that has been built up is now destroyed and annihilated, yet with unity of purpose and active cooperation, that which now lies in ashes can be re-established. I am also thankful to see that unity of purpose which governs you. Never forget the serious warning which lies in the saying - “Divide and rule”, and may these words never be applied to the Afrikander people. Then our nationality and our language will live and flourish.

What I myself may be allowed to see of that future lies in God’s hands.

Born under the British flag, I shall not die thereunder.

I have learned to accept the inevitable – the thought that I shall close my eyes in foreign lands, an exile, almost alone, far away from relatives and friends whom I will never see again, far from the African soil which I shall never tread again, far from the land to which I dedicated my life in opening it up for civilisation and where I saw my own nation developing. But the bitterness thereof will be softened as long as I may cherish the conviction that the work once begun will be continued, for that hope and expectation will sustain me in the knowledge that the end of that work will be good.

So be it.

Out of the depth of my heart, I greet you and the whole nation.

S. J. P. KRUGER

C

Lord Hastings’ speech proposing Sir Arnold Theiler for the second award of the Royal Agricultural Society’s Gold Medal – taken from the Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Royal British Agricultural Society held on the 1st August 1934.
The name selected by the Gold Medal Scheme Sub-Committee was Sir Arnold Theiler who was perhaps the first veterinary pathologist in the Empire. Sir Arnold had made the Dominion of South Africa habitable by domestic animals and his action in so doing, spread over a very long term of years, had opened up South Africa to the importation of stock from Great Britain to the immense advantage of breeders of all classes of stock in this country. The fact that it was possible to select for this award a veterinary pathologist of imperial renown occurred to the Selection Committee as being a very fortunate thing. He felt sure the Council would agree that to widen the scope and imperialise the importance of the Gold Medal would redound to the prestige and advantage of the Royal Agricultural Society as well as make the medal itself even more sought after. It must be remembered that they represented not merely a country but a very great Empire and it would be advantageous to imperialise the award in the fashion proposed and approved by the Selection Committee.

Ever since 1896 until his retirement in 1927, Sir Arnold Theiler had been concerned with work which had had immense and astonishing results. He had discovered a method of inoculation and immunisation from horse sickness which was a disease which anybody familiar with life in South Africa was aware had made life for horses and mules almost impossible and had caused immensely serious losses. He had also discovered a successful method of vaccination for catarhal fever in sheep, ephemeral fever and pernicious anaemia. He had moreover done great work in protozoology and his name had been given to a number of protozoan parasites that he had isolated. The transmission of East Coast Fever in ticks had been a subject of much investigation on his part. Anaplasmas also had been dealt with by Sir Arnold Theiler and he had shown the anaplasma centrale could be used to vaccinate cattle against the serious disease due to ‘marginale’. He had also worked out a method of protecting cattle against the organism of Redwater which was one of the main diseases disabling cattle from living in South Africa.

Sir Arnold had not neglected bacteriology and he had done a great deal of work in connexion with toxicology and had been able to isolate and identify many dangerous plants responsible for a number of diseases in animals. Perhaps his chief work however, was in connection with deficiency diseases. He had shown that two diseases of cattle, rickets and osteomalacia, were really caused by deficiency of phosphorus. He had also given his attention to parasitology. In brief, he was the outstanding figure in the world of veterinary pathology and his research work had had immense effects and had been of tremendous benefit to mankind in the Union of South Africa and to the Empire as a whole. The Sub-Committee felt, in recommending his name for the second year’s award of the Gold Medal, they were doing the Society an honour as well as Sir Arnold Theiler.

D

General Smuts’ address prior to unveiling the statue of Theiler at Onderstepoort was delivered extempore. No official record has been traced. Taking place in the afternoon, it received scant notice in the evening Pretoria News the following day but was very fully covered by the Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail of the 16th November 1939 from which this transcript has been taken.

‘We who are South African born and bred seldom think of these men not born here who have done so much for South Africa. We are not grateful enough for their contribution to our national welfare. Among such men, Theiler stood very high . . .

‘We have come here to do honour to one of the most shining memories in the history of
General Smuts drew attention to the fact that this was the first and only occasion on which a monument had been erected to a great man by the Union Government. In the past it had always been left to friends and admirers to erect statues or memorials to the men they admired. But Sir Arnold Theiler had seemed to the Union Government to be an exception. He was a man who had rendered such remarkable service to the country that the Government felt justified in erecting a statue on behalf of the whole nation.

"But there is another consideration which also makes this a special occasion. So far we have been prone in South Africa to honour men who occupied high position in the public eye—warriors, generals, statesmen and the like. Theiler's case is not one of these. He was a man not in the public eye who accepted no high position. He was a scientist pure and simple and as a scientist, he belonged to that group which had no special honours placed upon it.

"He was a veterinarian but he made South Africa world famous. Theiler, more than any other man, has put South Africa on the scientific map of the world. Although confined to scientific research, his own fame and that of this institution have gone to the ends of the earth.

"The Government erected this monument to express its gratitude and that of the nation. But the statue is not the real memorial to Theiler. The real memorial is this institution. Onderstepoort is among the famous names in Science.

"I have sometimes felt that in the years past, I did not do my duty and give his name to this place. It is now too late for that. This could have been the Arnold Theiler Institute. However the opportunity was missed and in the meantime, Theiler himself made Onderstepoort's fame so world renowned that it cannot be changed."

General Smuts recounted how in 1908, General Botha, a farseeing statesman who had a great feeling for the scientific view of life authorised the building of the institute at a cost which in those days appeared outrageous. Theiler had started his work and had continued for ten years making discoveries in veterinary science which had brought renown to his own name, the name of the institute and the name of South Africa.

"When I came back to South Africa from the Great War in 1919", continued the Prime Minister, "I found that Theiler had left the service and was conducting research somewhere in the wilds in the Vryburg district. He had had differences with my colleagues in the Government. Theiler was sometimes a difficult man to work with. He had what you might call the artistic temperament and it was sometimes difficult for Ministers to work with him.

"A strain developed and Theiler left the service. On my return, I had a talk with him and asked him to come back and establish closer relations with the Government of the country. I also asked him to set up a school where he could train a body of men to carry on his institute and his ideals. He came back and here we have the school. This veterinary research institute is recognised as the leading institution of its kind throughout the whole British Commonwealth. Students from the whole African Continent and from other parts of the Commonwealth come here to get a first-rate training as veterinarians. All that is the result of Theiler's work as a teacher.

"He was also a great personality—sincere, straight as a die, powerful, enthusiastic and utterly devoted to his work. The upshot of it all is that he has left his soul behind him here. For Theiler is not dead. His spirit animates this place. Let us hope for the good of the country and of the world that the Theiler spirit will continue to live and flourish for generations to come."

This country where animal diseases are rife has been kept back probably for centuries because of the plethora of animal diseases. You can imagine therefore what a benefactor Sir Arnold Theiler has been. No wonder his name is known wherever veterinary science is studied.
Hans, elder son of Sir Arnold and Lady Theiler, when serving as a veterinary dresser in the German East African Campaign during the First World War.

Margaret, elder daughter, photographed in 1939 when continuing her career as physical culturist and sportswoman.

Gertrud, younger daughter, taken in 1971 when continuously active at Onderstepoort as zoologist, biologist and parasitologist.
Max, younger son, and South Africa's first Nobel laureate.
Clues he discovered here have been followed up in other parts of the world and have been found to contribute to the solution of local troubles there. His is truly an astonishing record.

Theiler had had a great capacity for application but in addition he had that insight into the nature of things which was given to very few people. Rutherford, Einstein and others like them had had that insight into the significance of the situation before them. It is the grace of God, genius – something you get in some unaccountable way. Theiler had this vision. We have had great veterinarians here but we must single him out as a man who above all of them was endowed with this second sight into the heart of the problem.

With all this, he was one of the most simple and lovable men I ever came across. He was never worried about wealth or the ordinary attractions of life. He simply loved his work. Now that he has gone, his spirit remains with us’, declared General Smuts, ‘I hope that it will continue to animate this institution and I hope the traditions he has established will be maintained here for generations to come.’

SEQUENCE OF THEILER’S PRINCIPAL AWARDS

1889 – Federal Swiss Diploma of Veterinary Surgeon (Zurich)
1890 – Federal Swiss Gazetting as Lieutenant (Veterinary Surgeon) in the Army Medical Service
1897 – Government Veterinary Surgeon in the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, Transvaal
1898 – Veterinary Surgeon to the Staatsartillerie of the Z.A.R., Transvaal
1901 – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (University of Berne)
1906 – Foreign Corresponding Member of the Central Society of Veterinary Medicine, Paris
1907 – Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (King Edward VIIth Birthday Honours)
1908 – South Africa Medal (South African Association for the Advancement of Science)
        Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa
        Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland
        Associate Member of the Society of Exotic Pathology, Paris
1909 – Honorary Member of the Swiss Veterinarians Association
        Foreign Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Agriculture, Turin, Italy
1910 – Honorary Associate Member of the Spanish Veterinarians Association
        Honorary Member of the Veterinary Association of Ireland
1911 – Doctor of Science – honoris causa (University of the Cape of Good Hope)
1912 – President of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science
        Chevalier de l’Ordre de la Couronne Belge
        Honorary Member of the Veterinary Association of Brabant, Belgium
1913 – Nominal Member of the Veterinary Sciences Society, Lyon, France
1914 – Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (King George Vth New Year Honours)
1917 – Corresponding Member of the Basle Natural Sciences Society, Switzerland
1918 – Scott Memorial Medal (South African Biological Society)
1920 – Honorary President of the South African Biological Society
        Honorary Member of the Central Society of Veterinary Medicine, Paris
1921 - Honorary Member of the Berne Veterinary Association
Honorary Member of the Berne Natural Sciences Society
Honorary Member of the Swiss Natural Sciences Society
1923 - Honorary Member of the Canadian Veterinary Association
Honorary Member of the American Veterinary Medical Association
Corresponding Member of the Helminthological Society, Washington
Doctor of Science – honoris causa (University of Syracuse)
Doctor of Science – honoris causa (University of Berne)
1924 - Honorary Member of the Society of Exotic Pathology, Paris
1925 - Doctor of Veterinary Medical Science – honoris causa (University of South Africa)
1926 - Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London
1927 - Gold Medal (Laveran image) of the Society of Exotic Pathology, Paris
Coompted to the International Agricultural Institute, Rome
Corresponding Member of the Society of American Bacteriologists
Honorary Member of the Microbiological Society, Vienna
Honorary President of the South African Biological Society
Honorary Life Vice-President of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science
Honorary Life Vice-President of the South African Veterinary Medical Association
1928 - Corresponding Member of the Biological Society, Paris
Honorary Member of the Australian Veterinary Association
1929 - Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston
1930 - Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences: Section on Rural Economy of the Institute of France, Paris
Honorary Foreign Member of the American Society of Parasitologists, Princeton, U.S.A.
Associate Member of the Royal Colonial Institute: Natural Sciences and Medical Section, Brussels
1931 - Honorary Member of the Lucerne Natural Sciences Society
Associate Member of the Academy of Colonial Sciences, Paris
1932 - Foreign Correspondent in the 5th Division: Veterinary Medicine of the Academy of Medicine, Paris
Honorary Corresponding Member: Section of Comparative Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, London
1934 - Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London
Gold Medal (Budapesth) of the 12th International Veterinary Conference
Gold Medal and Honorary Membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of England
Honorary Life Member of the New Zealand Veterinary Association
Honorary Member of the Society of Exotic Pathology, Paris
Associate Foreign Member of the Veterinary Academy of France
Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine
1935 - Doctor of Science – honoris causa – University of the Witwatersrand
Silver Jubilee Medal – King George Vth
Doctor of Science – honoris causa – University of Cape Town
1936 - Associate Member of the Biological Society, Paris
Honorary Professor in Tropical Medicine, University of Pretoria
Doctor of Science – honoris causa (University of Utrecht, Holland)
GLOSSARIES

I. Place Names – Changes in Time

‘Africa South’ betokens the area south of the Equator
Basutoland Protectorate – Lesotho
Bechuanaland Protectorate – Bechuanaland – Botswana
Swaziland Protectorate – Swaziland
Bechuanaland (incorporated in Cape Colony and later South Africa)
Portuguese East Africa – Mocambique – Maputo
Portuguese West Africa – Angola
German East Africa – Tanganjika – Tanzania
German West Africa – South West Africa – Namibia
Matabeleland, Mashonaland, Manicaland, etc – Chartered Territory – Rhodesia – Southern
Rhodesia – British South Africa – Rhodesia
Northern Rhodesia – Zambia
Nyassaland – Malawi
Congo – Belgian Congo – Zaire

2. Vernacular Terms

(i) Dutch/Afrikaans

Africander – Anglicised version of Afrikander-Afrikaner denoting a white person born in South Africa
Africander – a hump-backed breed of South African cattle, large-horned
Afrikaner – an Afrikaans-speaking white born in South Africa
Baas – boss, master, manager, head, chief
Biltong – sun-dried meat (used on commando)
Blaauwtong, Bloutong, Blue Tongue – catarrhal fever in sheep
Boer – farmer (stock or otherwise)
Boererate – home (farm) remedies
Commando, Kommando – mounted party of armed burghers
Dominee (abbreviated Ds, deriving from Dominus) – minister, clergyman
Donga – gully or deep cleft usually eroded by water
Dorp – village or small town
’dorpsboer’ – a farmer living in town
Drift – passage across a river bed
Kampvegter – fighter, champion
Kop – mountain, peak (viz Spionkop)
Kopje – hill or small mountain
Kroeshaar – crinkled hair
Laager – circular fortified encampment surrounded by wagons
Lamziekte, Gal-Lamziekte – lame sickness
Landdrost – magistrate
Meerkat – mongoose
Nachmaal – communion service (periodically held in country churches)
Oom – uncle (deferential term addressed by younger persons to older, hence Oom-neef, uncle­nephew, relationship)
Platteland – hinterland, country districts
Poort – a washed-out gully between hills
Raadzaal – Council Chamber, Volksraad Chamber, Parliament House
Roer – gun, rifle
Rondavel – round native-style hut or cottage
Sjambok – short hide whip
Smous – pedlar, hawker, itinerant trader
Sponsziekte – Black Quarter Evil
Taal – language (Afrikaans)
Takhaar – backveld Boer or hick
Trekboere – stockmen who trek or drive their flocks and herds to better grazing
Uitlanders – foreigners, aliens
Uitvoerende Raad – Executive Council
Velschoen, Velskoen – shoes made of untanned skin
Volksheld – national hero
Volksraad – National Council or Parliament

(ii) African
Indaba – meeting, conference
Induna – head man, executive official

(iii) German
Alte Heimat, die – the old homeland
Aussland – overseas, abroad
Beschaftigt – occupied, busy
‘Dikke Luft’ – lit. thick air, a tense atmosphere
Einig, Einigkeit – being at one with, unity
Grossartig – grand, sublime
Landleute – countryfolk, peasants
Neugierig – curious, inquisitive
Pechvogel – unlucky fellow
Zusammengehangt – lit. hanging-togetherness, closing the ranks

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(A fully-documented copy of this work referring specifically to multifarious official and other sources may be consulted through The President, Human Sciences Research Council, Private Bag X41, Pretoria 0001, South Africa. Of the wide reading necessary to understand the period covered, only those sources to which specific reference has been made are listed here.)

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458
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